



# Commentator

## MAY 2013

*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support or oppose candidates for public office but does encourage its members as individuals to participate actively in the political process. The League acts on those issues the membership chooses for study and action*

*The LWV of the Mid-Hudson Region covers the Ulster County area and the Dutchess County area. We belong to the LWV of New York State and the LWV of the US.*

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### CALENDAR

MAY		
7	Tues. 7:15 pm	<b>LWV MHR Board Meeting</b> , home of Shirley Kobran, 53 Schuler Lane, Lake Katrine, 845-382-6989
8	Wed. 11 am	<b>Resource Development Committee</b> , home of Dorothy Winrow, 51 Norma Court, Kingston. 845-331-3550 or 340-2003 for directions.
14	Tues. 5:30 pm	<b>Solid Waste Study Committee</b> , Gateway Diner, Rt. 9W just north of Mid-Hudson Bridge (across from Burger King), Highland. For info and to confirm: Cindy Lanzetta, 845-236-7288, <a href="mailto:packback56@yahoo.com">packback56@yahoo.com</a>
16	Thurs. 5:30 pm	<b>SHOUT OUT Pizza Party</b> , home of Dorothy Winrow, 51 Norma Court, Kingston. 845-331-3550 or 340-2003 for directions and to "order" pizza! Join in writing letters to your elected officials about key League issues or other topics of concern to you. Let's get our elected folks on track!
17	Fri. 10 am	<b>Dutchess Shared Services Committee</b> , home of Ellie Charwat, 7 Creek Bend Rd., Poughkeepsie, 845-462-7061, <a href="mailto:echarwat@yahoo.com">echarwat@yahoo.com</a>
23	Thurs. noon	<b>LWV Annual Meeting Luncheon</b> featuring Gerald and Liz Benjamin. Ulster BOCES, Rt. 32, New Paltz. Catered by Main St. Bistro. Cost TBA. Non-members most welcome. The cost for lunch is \$10. Talk and meeting are free.
JUNE		
1 - 2	Sat. – Sun.	<b>LWVNY CONVENTION</b> sessions from 1 pm Saturday to noon Sunday Great pre-convention workshops at 8:30 and 9:45 Saturday. See <a href="http://www.lwvny.org">www.lwvny.org</a> for details. Financial support and carpooling may be available – call LWV-MHR at 340-2003 to check.
4	Tues. 7:15 pm	<b>LWV MHR Board Meeting</b> , home of Shirley Kobran, 53 Schuler Lane, Lake Katrine, 845-382-6989. Time, date and location tentative; please confirm by calling 340-2003 or asking a board member.
6	Thurs. 2 pm	<b>Resource Development Committee meeting</b> , home of Margaret Sellers, 80 Ringtop Road, Kingston, 845-339-3180, <a href="mailto:mcsellers@aol.com">mcsellers@aol.com</a> Time, date and location tentative; please confirm with Margaret.
11	Tues. 5:30 pm	<b>Solid Waste Study Committee</b> , Gateway Diner, Rt 9W just north of Mid-Hudson Bridge, Highland. For more info and to confirm, contact Cindy Lanzetta, 845-236-7288, <a href="mailto:packback56@yahoo.com">packback56@yahoo.com</a>

For updates, check our Calendar on-line at  
<http://lwvmidhudson.org/calendar.html>

**Prez Sez...**

The spring explosion of leaves and flowers adds so much to the many transitions we humans enjoy at this time of year from graduations and weddings to annual meetings and conventions.

Our own **annual meeting** on May 23rd gives us a chance to see the more human side of the League's good friend, "Jerry" Benjamin, as he takes the floor with his daughter, Liz. If you get YNN and see Liz's *Capital Tonight* show, you're probably as eager as I am to meet her in person. Like her father and our own Barb Bartoletti, she seems to know everyone in Albany and in high positions around the state, and across the political spectrum, so between **the two Benjamins**, there's not much about government that they can't address.

A weekday lunchtime annual meeting is new for us, as is the location, but we trust that the rare chance to see these two together - and possibly to meet Joe Pugliese, **our Student Inside Albany**, as well - will be strong enticements.

Our annual meeting also gives you a chance to weigh in on **our "program"** - what we will study and speak out about in the year ahead. The board recommends we continue to support the active Solid Waste and Dutchess Shared Services Committees' work and that we make an effort to look more carefully at the budgets of our two counties - both separately and as they shed light on one another. We have some good "numbers people" in our membership and we'd love to take advantage of this, especially in this fiscally challenging time. The board also suggests we participate at some level in the LWVUS update of its Agriculture position. But what really matters is what *you* think.

Transitions are happening on the state level too. Elsewhere in this Commentator we encourage you to attend the **state convention**, which is in nearby Albany on June 1 - 2. Sat., June 1 is the meatiest day, and you can attend for only \$40 as an observer. If the cost is a problem, please let me know. Your attendance is an investment in our League's future and we may be able to help.

Enjoy spring everyone. And share a bit of it with us!

**Dare**

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS** Monthly Board meeting minutes and more can be found at <http://lwvmidhudson.org/Committees.html>

**ANNUAL MEETING REMINDER**

Thursday, May 23, noon, Ulster BOCES, 175 Route 32 North, New Paltz.

Special guests are **Gerald and Liz Benjamin** who will discuss "Corruption in New York - Worse Than Ever?" and other topics.

Sandwiches, beverages and dessert will be provided by Main Street Bistro. A \$10 donation is suggested. There is no charge for just the talk and business meeting.

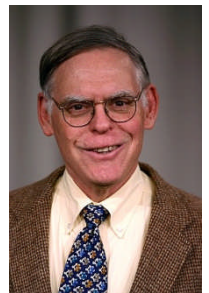
Reserve at [845-340-2003](tel:845-340-2003) or [info@lwvmidhudson.org](mailto:info@lwvmidhudson.org)

**Schedule:** Lunch will be available promptly at noon with introduction of our speakers at about 12:30. The Annual Meeting will follow.

The speakers are both well known throughout the state. **Dr. Gerald Benjamin**, Distinguished Professor in the political science department at SUNY New Paltz, is a leading expert on New York state and local politics and the editor of the just-published *Oxford Handbook of New York State Government and Politics*. Unusual for an academic, he has also held important positions in local government including service as chair of the Ulster County legislature and more recently as chair of the County's Charter Commission. He is currently the Director of SUNY's Center for Research, Regional Education and Outreach (CRREO), the principal locus of the college's efforts to raise the level of engagement within local governments, not-for-profits, and businesses across the Hudson Valley.



**Liz Benjamin**, who is Gerald's daughter and grew up in New Paltz, is the writer and host of *Capital Tonight*, which airs each weeknight on YNN stations across upstate New York. It features interviews with elected officials and political activists across the political spectrum. She is also the director of the "State of Politics" blog which is found on the *Capital Tonight* website and on the sites of all the YNN news channels and NY1.



After graduating from New Paltz HS, the University of Rochester, and Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, she started her career as a reporter for Ulster Publishing's *New Paltz Times*. She went on to become a columnist and director of political blogs for the *Albany Times Union* and the *New York Daily News*, and then on to YNN.

Although their talk will focus on corruption, a hot topic right now after recent high-profile arrests, the Benjamins will engage in a question and answer session about other political issues in the state and Mid-Hudson region.

The LWV-MHR **Annual Meeting** will include the election of officers and board members, a vote on the 2013-14 budget, and adoption of our program for the coming year. As required by our by-laws, initial information about all these were sent in the last Commentator. (See the Prez Sez for further information.)

## New Members

Among the many new members to the League this year are the following good people. We welcome them and their many talents!

### **TIM LIETZKE**

Tim is a long-time peace and justice activist, organic fruit and vegetable grower, and a member of Poughkeepsie Friends Meeting. He presently lives and works at Peter Maurin Catholic Worker farm in Marlboro, which provides food for the poor. He is starting a small CSA In Dare and Doug Thompson's backyard.

One of his significant peace witnesses was the Pershing Plowshares disarmament action, for which he spent over two years in prison. That experience together with many years of prison ministry with Pax Christi and Quaker groups has given him extensive first-hand experience in the justice system. He feels that his prison "degree" is as valuable as his previous three academic degrees. He is co-founder of Freedom House, a soup kitchen and shelter in Richmond, VA.

Tim is a practitioner and advocate of a simple, sustainable, and spiritually focused way of life close to the earth. His interests include theology, philosophy, history, languages, world literature, classical music, yoga, and quiet philosophical conversation.

### **NINA POSTUPACK**

Nina began her career at the Ulster County Clerk's office only a few months after graduating with a bachelor's degree in Economics from Marymount College in 1979, and she has steadily moved up within that office until in 2005 she was elected County Clerk. She is presently serving her second term.

Her contributions beyond the County Clerk's Office include membership in a variety of community and professional organizations and many leadership positions including Past Chairwoman of the Board of Trustees for John A. Coleman Catholic High School, Past President of St. Joseph's HSA, Current member of the Board of the Senate House, Member of the Boys and Girls Club Board, Founding member of Hopes Fund, Member of the People's Place Board, Member and Co-chair of the Ulster County Quadricentennial Committee

Nina lives in Kingston with her husband Duane who is a local real estate appraiser. Her daughter Dana lives and works in Connecticut and her son Drew lives and works in Ulster County.

### **GLENN SUTHERLAND**

A native and current resident of Kingston, Glenn is the husband of LWV member Cynthia Lowe and supports the activities of the League. He is President and Chief Executive Officer of Catskill Hudson Bank and its parent Catskill Hudson Bancorp, Inc. Catskill Hudson Bank, headquartered in Kingston, has twelve banking offices in Orange, Sullivan, and Ulster Counties.

Glenn joined the Bank in January 2005 having previously been President and CEO of Ellenville National Bank prior to its acquisition by Provident Bank. Previously he was Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at First National Bank of Rhinebeck until its merger with Fishkill National Bank. A CPA and a CFP, he began his career in Kingston as an accountant with Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co and later operated his own CPA practice with Cynthia under the name of Sutherland & Lowe.

Glenn is currently a board member and Vice Chairman of the Sullivan County Partnership and a board member of the Hudson Valley Economic Development Corporation, the New Paltz Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Bardavon, the Ulster Community College Foundation, and the Independent Bankers Association of New York State. He serves on the board and chairs the Education Committee of the New York Bankers Association. He was previously a board member and treasurer of the Ulster County Development Corporation, chaired the "Ulster Tomorrow" economic development project; and currently serves on the Economic Advisory Council to the Ulster County Executive.

**ATTEND the  
LWVNYS STATE  
CONVENTION -  
Sat., JUNE 1**

While the whole convention goes until noon on Sunday, June 2, and delegates pay \$180 to attend, we're close enough to Albany to go for just Saturday. Valuable workshops happen at 8:30 and 9:45 AM and you can attend them and the day's business meetings as an "observer" for only \$40. There may be LWV-MHR funds to cover this; just ask us. If you want to stay for the reception, dinner and talk by Mickey Edwards, there's an additional \$60 fee.

Mr. Edwards, VP of the Aspen Institute and a former Republican Congressman from Oklahoma, spoke at the LWVUS Convention in 2012 on the issue of civil discourse and the need for nonpartisan cooperation in politics. His most recent book, entitled *The Parties Versus the People: How to Turn Republicans and Democrats into Americans*, was published in 2012. He is a colorful, knowledgeable and effective speaker - well worth hearing on a topic we're pretty sure you really care about!

For more info go to [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org) or contact Dare Thompson at 340-2003.

**VOTER SERVICE**

**JOE PUGLIESE** was our Student Inside Albany (SIA) this year. Here's an essay Joe submitted as part of his application to us to be our SIA student. I was a chaperone and can attest to the upbeat and cooperative influence he had on the students, and this helped create a good time for all, even the adults. He did us proud!

We are now planning a July reunion for Joe and any 2013 SIA students who can make it, past LWVMHR and Saugerties SIA students who are still around, and all of us. Stay tuned! You will want to meet these young leaders.

Dare Thompson



**Assemblyman Cahill  
with Joe Pugliese**

**“CHANGE”**

Education did not matter to me when I was younger. I gave it no effort, and consequently my friends advanced, taking honors classes while I misused words and was suspended on a regular basis. Something had to be done. Unfortunately, it took a death to do it. When my grandmother died in 2008, it finally dawned on me that I had not yet met the zenith of my potential. This motivation exceeded my expectations; I made it to the honors classes in my freshman year. While it was a defining moment for me, the fears of failure still haunted me.

Being an honors student is prodigious, but I wanted to achieve something bigger. I wanted to have a positive impact on others. What better way to do that than by joining a club. So I did. After ten months of yearbook, and a failed Class Vice-President run, the ball got rolling. However, it was not until sophomore year that I really saw a transition.

I *still* can feel my heartbeat before the winner was announced. A part of me can actually hear it. How could a sophomore possibly beat a junior in an election? Apparently one can; I became the amanuensis of Student Government. I swear, that day the planets had to have been aligned or something equally miraculous. Joe 2.0 arrived. And it's moments like that – the turning points - that launched me and many others into a new level of success.

Now with a platform from which to work, I heard all the complaints and wishes of the students. For example, the juniors wanted to go off campus for lunch, and I was going to give them that right. I went to war. Between collecting data, surveying students, and staying up until dawn, I really got a grasp of what the real world is like. While basic algebra and physics are quintessential, the work I did and would go on to do with Student Government was real world learning with was phenomenal for my academic growth. Nothing could compare.

“Grandma, I am going to become President,” I said as I knelt down on the grass next to her gravestone. I did not care that my parents were waiting in the car, that my dress clothes were getting the impenetrable grass stain on them or anything else for that matter. I had to make that promise.

It was not long before the posters were hung, the speeches were made, and the votes were cast. In what is easily the greatest moment of my life, I became President of Kingston High School Student Government. From suspensions to President, I completely flipped my life around. After three long years, I saw positive change made. I have learned my back will be against the wall sometimes, but overcoming obstacles is what will define me. I still carry that mentality, because with it I created change in my school, and in my life.

Joe Pugliese

**Shout Out Pizza Party!**

Democracy is not a spectator sport, so don't keep your thoughts to yourself. Your legislators can't read your mind. Join us for a letter-writing party on Thursday, May 16, at 5:30 pm.

We'll supply paper, envelopes, and background information on issues of special importance to the League right now at the federal and state levels.

Among the many issues the League is focused on right now are campaign finance, the Keystone XL pipeline, hydrofracking (especially the disposal of fracking waste products), women's equality, gun safety, and healthcare. But you can bring your own issues.

We're meeting at the home of Dorothy Winrow, 51 Norma Court, Kingston. Contact the League at 340-2003 or [darethompson@gmail.com](mailto:darethompson@gmail.com) to let us know you're coming so we have enough pizza! Ask for directions if you need them.

**VOTE 411**

Jean and Jim McGarry attended Vote 411 training on April 8th at LWVNYS to learn more about creating a local voter guide. Given the number of local elections this year, this will be an extremely effective tool to educate citizens about candidates and issues. Our hope is to have comprehensive coverage of both Ulster and Dutchess Counties. For this effort to be successful, it will require great organization and many volunteers. If you want *your* local candidates to be included... VOLUNTEER.

Hear more about how you can be part of this endeavor at our Annual meeting and in future editions of the Commentator. Just so you know, Jim is the computer guru so no tech skills are required of you. What is needed are "gatherers of information" so Jim can put together a voter guide worthy of our reputation. Please let this be your volunteer priority for the league this year.

Jean

**Moderating Guidelines**

*Guidelines for moderating and sponsorship of candidates' events by the League are our website at <http://lwvmidhudson.org/Moderating.html> or from the [Home](#) page and the [Elections](#) page.*

**PROGRAM NEWS****Hunger In Ulster County**

On Tuesday, April 23, twelve people met at the home of Margaret and Vic Melville to discuss the document "Food Insecurity in Ulster County" written by Sue Books, a professor in the Department of Secondary Education at SUNY New Paltz, and published by the Center for Research, Regional Education and Outreach (CRREO) at SUNY New Paltz.

**The document details disturbing findings including:**

-About 3 in 20 Ulster County residents and one in five children, sometimes lack adequate food to meet basic nutritional needs.

-The most vulnerable include low-income children and teenagers, elderly and near retirement adults, and people without transportation who live too far from sources of healthy and affordable food.

-In 2010 about 12% of all residents, 15% of all families with young children, and 47% of all single-mother families with young children had incomes below the poverty level.

-Six percent of households with incomes below the poverty level do not receive SNAP (food stamp) benefits because of intrusive questions asked on application forms, a sense of shame in seeking help, and other factors.

-In 2009-2010, 37.1% of Ulster County students received free or reduced-price lunches.

**Suggestions to address unmet needs include:**

-Expand summer feeding for children.

-Increase enrollment in the school lunch program.

-Improve transportation to healthy food sources.

-Help eligible residents receive SNAP benefits.

-Help the growing number of pre-retirement age poor and near poor.

Discussion attendees felt that the Mid-Hudson LWV should engage further in this issue. We will educate ourselves about the Farm Bill and schedule a meeting with Congressman Gibson to discuss improvements to the Bill, including our concern about cuts to the SNAP program. We will also offer more opportunities for the public to learn about and speak out on hunger in our region.

Submitted by Tim Lietzke



**ADVOCACY & STUDY COMMITTEE REPORTS****Solid Waste  
Committee**

**NEW DOCUMENTS ONLINE:** The [Dutchess County Solid Waste Management Plan 2013](#) and the [Study Committee's Comments](#). Links to these and an extensive "library" of related materials can be found on our website at: [http://www.lwvnet.org/lwv/ny/midhudson/Action\\_Study.html#Trash](http://www.lwvnet.org/lwv/ny/midhudson/Action_Study.html#Trash)

**Dutchess  
County Shared  
Services Study**

Jail Fact Sheet Version 4-1  
Fire Districts in Dutchess County  
Justice Courts in Ulster County

Highway Departments in Ulster County  
Purchasing in Dutchess County Municipalities  
Bus Transportation

You can find links to these materials at [http://lwvmidhudson.org/Action\\_Study.html#s02](http://lwvmidhudson.org/Action_Study.html#s02)

**ULSTER COUNTY OBSERVER CORP****Economic  
Development and  
Tourism  
Committee**

Date: Apr. 3, 2013      Scheduled Start Time: 6:00 p.m.

[This LWV observer could not attend the meeting. The audio recording is available.]

The following resolutions received considerable local press coverage because of the controversies surrounding them:

Draft Resolution No. 0192 regarding the Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee – Ulster County Legislature reestablishing.

Draft Resolution No. 0195 supporting the placement of video lottery terminals at the Hudson Valley Resort and the Pine Grove Ranch in the town of Rochester.

Draft Resolution No. 0218 calling on the Ulster County Industrial Development Agency (UCIDA) to establish a policy regarding incumbent legislators and payment in lieu of tax (PILOT) agreements.

Draft Resolution No. 0219 supporting the development of the Catskill Mountain Trail, linking the Walkway Over the Hudson to the Ashokan Reservoir, preserving the railroad from Kingston to Phoenicia, and expanding the region's interconnected rail trail network in a world-class tourism destination.

Vic Melville

**Legislative  
Programs,  
Education &  
Community  
Services  
Committee**

Date: Apr. 10, 2013      Start Time: 5:10 p.m.      Adjourn Time: 6:16 p.m.

Chairman Wayne Harris called the meeting to order, attendance taken and the meeting minutes from Mar. 1, 2013, were approved.

Lydia Reidy, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension Ulster County, reviewed their current activities and programs. The activities include celebrating the 100 years anniversary of the extension on June 1 and celebrating the 150 years anniversary of the land grant (college) act. A bus tour of local farms is being planned. Federal funding cuts to the SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) will affect their mid-year finances, but recovery is expected by October with no staff cuts required.

Legislator Craig Lopez asked about the effects of the cold spring: crops are OK and the hoops structures help.

Draft Resolution No. 0190 appropriation for Ulster County Libraries Program was approved following a discussion of funding of data bases to eliminate duplication of materials and services..

Draft Resolution No. 0199 approving the New York State Office of Children and Family Services 2013 Resource Allocation plan, amending the 2013 Ulster county budget – Youth Bureau was approved following a discussion with Evelyn Clark, Executive Director. Ms. Clark reviewed their programs and activities, including their board activity and collaborations. The executive director received compliments for the breath of activities and programs, and she agreed to consider a connection to the S.T.R.I.V.E. program.

Draft Resolution No. 0215 setting a public hearing on the tentative budget of the Ulster County Community College for the year 2013 – 2014 to be held Tues. June 11, 2013, at 6:30 p.m. was approved.

Mark Komdat, Dean UCCC, discussed several of their upcoming events and current enrollment and

budget items: enrollment up some, Sophie Finn project proceeding toward a referendum and RFP, a budget amendment of being prepared, and state aid is expected to avoid a tuition increase.

In conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Harris welcomed comments from anyone else attending the meeting. This LWV observer spoke (again) on the CRREO report on Food Insecurity in Ulster County and encouraged the county government to pursue this issue, and that the league may pursue the issue.

Vic Melville

**Ulster County  
Legislature: Laws  
and Rules,  
Governmental  
Services  
Committee**

Date: Apr. 15, 2013      Start Time: 6:02 p.m.      Adjourn Time: 6:50 p.m.  
[audio recording]

Chairman Kevin Roberts called the meeting order. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Mr. Roberts invited a representative of Dr. Segres [sp?] of Astor and representatives of the Department of Ulster County Mental Health, Cheryl Qamar, Judith Dagirmanjian, et al, to discuss the move of children services to Astor from the county department. They explained that Astor is open 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. for a walk-in services, vs. a prior wait of days. Over 200 intakes this year, a rate of 10 per week. They are pleased with the results thus far, and Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell expressed his satisfaction of their invitation to the meeting and the results reported thus far.

A needs assessment is to be launched May 2 using SurveyMonkey. A gap evaluation and customized collaboration is planned. Legislator Robert Parete suggested the survey window is 2 – 3 weeks to consider the funding schedule.

An open house is being planned.

Mr. Parete questioned the reimbursement re Medicaid.

Proposed Resolution No. 65 setting a public hearing on proposed local law, known as “The Ulster County School-based Mental Health and Safety Act Of 2013” was tabled for a clarification to be presented at a special meeting on Apr. 22, 2013.

Proposed LATE Resolution No. 0220 regarding authorizing Ulster County to pay for the cost of election expense was referred to committee for LATENESS. No vote on the resolution.

All other resolutions were approved, following some discussion.

### Special Meeting

Date: Apr. 22, 2013      Start Time: 6:06 p.m.      Adjourn Time: 7:57 p.m.  
Chairman Kevin Roberts called the meeting to order and minutes were approved.  
[audio recording]

Chairman Roberts opened the discussion of this special meeting on a draft of proposed revision of the Ulster County Legislature’s Rules of Order. Legislator Tracey Bartles and Counsel to Legislature Langdon Chapman joined the discussion.

This is the first special meeting on the subject. The discussion addressed the section: Procedures for the submission and consideration of resolutions in Committee and focused on sponsorship, types of resolutions, the resolution referral process, and the policies of the committees and the county executive of submitting business to the legislature.

The Majority Leader Ken Ronk and Minority Leader David Donaldson agreed about an overall goal: committees count.

The next special meeting is called for May 8, 2013, at 6:30 p.m.

Vic Melville

**Ulster County  
Legislature:**

Date: Apr. 4, 2013      Start Time: 5:45 p.m.      Adjourn Time: 6:58 p.m.  
[audio recording]

**Environmental  
Energy &  
Technology  
Committee**

Chairman Carl Belfiglio, called the meeting to order and took attendance. The meetings of Jan. 10, 2013, Jan. 23, 2013, Feb. 7, 2013, and Mar. 7, 2013, minutes were approved.

Al Teetsel, representing Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency board, announced the UCRRA regular meetings will start at 5:00 p.m. for a six month trial period - allowing and expecting more legislators and others to attend.

Guest presenter Charles Breiner representing the Claryville Fire Department discussed the flooding concerns near the fire station and nearby bridges of Denning Bridge Rd. The committee discussed the need of the Ulster County Department of Public Works and the county executive's office (Bob Sudlow is to be contacted) to work with the Ulster County Public Works and Capital Projects Committee. The issue is referred to that public works committee, Dean Fabiano, Chairman.

Draft Resolution No. 0184.1 requesting the introduction of legislation to amend Article 13-G of the Public Authorities Law relating to the UCRRA was discussed regarding the proposed advisory committee, contract amendments, legislative powers, representation, requirement of the NY state legislature the change the UCRRA board, and an amendment to remove language in the resolution (D-E-F) – approved. The amended resolution (A-C) was approved.

Tim Rose, UCRRA Executive Director, introduced Thomas Briggs, the newly hired UCRRA compliance officer.

Draft Resolution No. 0189 amending the Rules of Order of the Ulster County Legislature to require the recording of legislative meetings and standing committee meetings was approved to refer to the floor in consideration of Legislator Tracy Bartles.

Draft Resolution No. 0193 confirming appointment of a member to the Environmental Management Council was approved.

Draft Resolution No. 0196 appointing and reappointing members to the Soil and Water Conservation District Board was approved.

Draft Resolution No. 0211 supporting a local government efficiency grant application was approved following an agreement that Majority Leader Ken Ronk will contact the county budget director regarding any financial impact.

Old Business: Climate Smart Committee failed to move forward on selecting appointments. Mr. Belfiglio agreed to solicit for members.

Legislator John Parete discussed the UCRRA regarding the SEQRA Type 2 negative determination by the county attorney, Beatrice Havranek, Esq., and an agreement was reached for the county attorney to be invited the committee's next meeting to discuss the determination and bring supporting documentation.

[LWV observer comment: In this meeting, the discussions and voting were difficult for me to follow as there were occurrences of more than one discussion at the same time of a resolution, and discussions of more than one resolution at the same time. The accuracy and completeness of these observer notes may reflect these situations.]

Vic Melville

**Legislative Health  
and Personnel  
Committee**

The Health and Personnel Committee was convened at 5:32 by chairman, Legislator Aiello on April 8, 2013. This was a rescheduled meeting from April 1, 2013, which was not held due to a lack of a quorum.

Present: Aiello, Provenzano, Belfiglio, Ronk

7Absent: Parete

Others: Deputy County Executive Crannell, Christa Barringer, Erica Guerin, Cathy Nolan

Following the approval of the minutes for the meetings of February 4 and March 4, the committee reviewed the monthly personnel report. Legislator Belfiglio noted that both CNAs and LPNs were being hired on as permanent positions. He questioned this regarding the expense that would be involved. DCE Crannell advised that they were not full time and not benefited positions. This was also being handled in this way to provide the administrator at Golden Hill with more flexibility in staffing schedules.

He also advised that any other questions on personnel could be directed to Robert Sudlow, the DCE who



oversees the Personnel Department.

Since the scheduled guest presenter, Paul Fowler was not present, the committee moved on to the resolutions before it.

Resolution #0212 dealt with authorizing an agreement between Ulster County and the Ulster County staff association (middle management). This is a new agreement, new union (not CSEA) and is a 4 year agreement. It is an agreement negotiated by the county executive and the county employees involved, all of whom apparently were satisfied. Committee passed.

Resolution #0192 dealt with re-establishing the Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee which includes 9 volunteers and 3 county legislators. The discussion that the committee engaged in appeared to center around the frequency with which the committee membership would need to be chosen which, at present, is every year. Cathy Nolan, a past chairman of the Trails Advisory Committee was permitted to comment. She indicated:

-that it has been the committee's procedure at the end of the calendar year to send out invitations to its members to volunteer to become members of the committee if they wish to;

-this year there were 9 openings and 9 volunteers for one year terms. (Past history apparently not always same people volunteer).

Further discussion led to apparent agreement that while this year would be left as indicated (one year term) in the resolution, next year the suggestion for two year terms would be considered. Additionally, there was also a suggestion that the terms for the committee members who are legislators coincide with their terms of office.

The Personnel Committee passed the above resolution.

At this point this observer had to leave the meeting.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

## Board of Health

The Ulster County Board of Health meeting was convened by Chairman, Dr. Tack on April 8, 2013 at 6:32 and adjourned at 6:50.

Present: Tack, Hildebrandt, Graham, Kelly, Woodley, Delma

Others: Commissioner Smith, Nereida Veytia, Director of Patient Services, Dept. Comm. Of Mental Health Cheryl Qamar, Shelley Mertens, Environmental Director, Jim Narone

The first order of business was approving the March 2013 minutes.

Following that, new board member Elizabeth Kelly was introduced to the group.

Commissioner Smith reported on the Community Health Assessment Stakeholders Summit Meeting which will take place on May 21. Apparently this is a new approach to managing health care in communities as the NYS Department of Health has indicated that hospitals must collaborate with health departments in doing this. Locally, the chronic diseases: childhood obesity and substance abuse (particularly alcohol and substance abuse in younger age group) are the areas of concentration. The group is working with CRREO at SUNY, New Paltz. The group's plan is due in November, 2013 and will be a report to the state. Ulster County and New York City are apparently the only two place in NYS which have one person who holds both health and mental health responsibilities, as Commissioner Smith does.

The Medical Examiner's report for March, 2013: 32 calls received, 12 site visits, 11 autopsies, 1 suicide, 1 motor vehicle case, no homicides.

Under the Environmental Health Report:

Mass Gathering Status: the local department is using the format/model developed by Dutchess County. Locally, a protocol for this topic is being worked on with regards to its layout as well as the dollars involved and the fee for permits. As yet, there has been no information from the potential concert sponsor which is to take place in 2014.

Food Service Permits: there was a brief discussion on the topic of rating restaurants in Ulster County, which is done in NYC and in Albany County. Possibly may develop such here in Ulster County. Of the 700 + restaurants in Ulster County which have been inspected to date, only 3 were a problem and none of the 3 are operating any longer.

Legionella Update: Apparently Ten Broeck Commons Nursing Home is okay at this point.

The Governor Clinton as well; no new cases apparently have been registered.

**UC Association of  
Town Supervisors  
and Mayors**

There was no new business to be discussed. The meeting was adjourned.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

The UC Association of Town Supervisors and Mayors was convened at 8:35 AM on April 16, 2013 by President, T/Supervisor Carl Chipman and adjourned at 10:43. The next meeting will be May 21, 2013.

Towns Represented: Gardiner, Hardenburgh, Hurley, T/Kingston, Marbletown, Olive, Rochester, Rosendale, Shawangunk, Ulster, Wawarsing, Woodstock.

Others: Adele Reiter, Chief of Staff to County Executive

Following the call to order, County Executive Hein spoke to the group:

-a handout, Planner's Memorandum was provided to the supervisors; the conclusion of the paper: "After examining the available data and considering numerous factors associated with the corridor, it is the Planning Department's conclusion that rail-with-trail (RWT) in the segment from Kingston to the Ashokan Reservoir and along the New York City Ashokan Reservoir to Boiceville is not a viable option. Extensive physical constraints, dramatic increases in cost, and adverse environmental and community impacts renders RWT unworkable." This is not the first time the RWT option has been rejected for the same area. Previously, in 2006, the Trail Feasibility Study for the Ulster and Delaware Corridor that the UC Transportation Council conducted also reached the same conclusion;

-some comments made on the fiscal problems associated with the Lower Esopus River;

-noted that the completion on the sale of the Golden Hill Nursing Home was nearing completion. Such monies to be received will be placed in the general fund.

As Mrs. Bernardo, Chairman of the UC Legislature did not attend, Mr. Chipman moved on to the next presenter, Tim Rose, the Executive Director of the UC Resource Recovery Agency. This was a lengthy presentation/discussion involving Mr. Rose and the town supervisors.

Initially, he noted that the agency was reviewing its budget to be sure it was on target for the coming year; suggested tipping fees seem in order. While not for this year, he noted the agency could consider taking over the transfer stations and possibly consolidate some in the future. It was noted during the discussion that not only are there political concerns but financial concerns to whatever decisions may eventually be made.

At one point the question was raised as to whether the supervisors should devote a meeting to brain storming how to handle the matter of the trash. It was felt to be premature, that a one year contract would be appropriate for now and then consider such a discussion at a later date.

There were also concerns raised about the resolution that the UC Legislature will vote on to request the state legislature to amend the agency board's membership. (It was noted that this was referenced in the Daily Freeman April 16, 2013). While the suggestion was initially made for the Association to send a letter to the state legislature indicating the group does not approve of such a request, it was eventually decided that Supervisor Chipman as president of the Association would speak with the county legislators indicating the Association opposition to such a resolution. Mr. Chipman noted the county legislature will vote on its resolution April 16 so he said he would attend the meeting and deliver the supervisors point of view.

The third presentation was made by Mr. Hogan of the Travers & O'Keefe group, an employee benefits advisory firm. The subject of the talk was the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. This was a very lengthy presentation entitled Overview for Ulster County Municipalities, NYS Exchange & Cadillac Tax.

Please note: given the length of the presentation, the detail involved, and the various q & a, that the summary reflects only an outline of the information that was provided .

The main point was how the federal health care act would impact the towns financially.

Items that are already introduced: non-discrimination requirements for insured plans and already required on self-insured plans; preventive services covered in full, women's health matters, obesity screenings & counseling for adults, emergency room paid as in net work.

Taxes & Fees: Flexible Spending Account (FSA) changes: dollar cap and removal of non-prescribed over the counter (OTC) medications.

Eligibility Changes: 90 days is waiting period limit; 30 hours = full time employee for the purposes of assessing the tax penalty; part time and seasonal employee handling has been clarified.

There was comment on Mandates, what was affordable, offered minimum value, changes due to age or sex of employee. Additionally, the presenter noted some developments that could occur in 2014 dealing

with coverage if such was not offered or dropped or offered but coverage did not provide minimum value, what penalties employers might face.

As noted above there was considerable detail. However, because of the detail this is a limited summary.

The presenter, Mr. Hogan, did suggest that there is constant redefinition being made of the various aspects involved. Further, there will be a need for employers to continually devote time to planning given the developments that could occur in 2017 and 2018.

The final speaker was Melissa Everett, Executive Director of Sustainable Hudson Valley. Due to the length of the previous two talks Dr. Everett's presentation time was limited. Supervisor Chipman invited her to present at the May meeting, which she agreed to do.

However, before leaving she noted that there was a conference on May 20 at the FDR Library to which she invited those present to attend. Additionally, she noted a program called Energize, which helps to save dollars on home costs which she would like to bring to another meeting.

The last business conducted was the approval of the March minutes, and the treasurer's report: \$7,021.77; and Supervisor Leifeld noted that the Village of Ellenville did not wish to be part of the Association.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp